

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Raleigh, N. C.

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The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents.

RALEIGH, N. C., JAN. 15, 1895.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The palatial residence of George near Asheville is probably the house that Vanderbilt.

Good times are coming—to the bankers—if Cleveland gets his currency scheme through.

We wonder when the Democrats will quit kicking themselves for trying to repeal the Alliance charter two years ago?

The Thomasville News, a thorough reform paper, has enlarged to nearly or quite twice its former size. Success to it.

A correspondent, writing to a Democratic newspaper from Washington, says: "There is universal regret that Ransom and Jarvis must give way to pigmies." Ransom and Jarvis pressed the button and the people did the rest.

A new Alliance was organized in this city by special permission of the State Alliance, last Tuesday night. It starts off well and will be composed of the State officers residing here and many others. It is to be known as the L. L. Polk Alliance.

During the next few weeks our space will be crowded with proceedings of the legislature. Correspondents will please note that fact and write very briefly. Do not fail to send anything important, but boil it down so we can get without giving up so much space.

The News says: "Probably the most interesting topic in the news for several days, or even weeks, will be the fact that David Bennett Hill, of New York, has died at the White House with one Grover Cleveland. If this is not enough to set every newspaper correspondent in the national capital nearly wild, nothing that could happen will ever have that effect upon them. If they can keep their nerves in good condition over this interesting little incident they are all right. The conclusions to be drawn from this little episode are of an infinite variety."

WE NEED KICKERS.

The Wilkesboro Chronicle says: "In the good old times of peace and contentment, the people were taught to respect and honor the government, the officers and their fellow men. Under the new regime of calamity howling, people are taught to despise the government and mistrust and suspicion their fellow citizens. It for bodes evil to our people."

The editor of the Chronicle is a bright young man, too intelligent, and, we hope, too honest to give aid or comfort to the plutocrats. Yet he is doing it. Plutocracy wants to see the people submit without a murmur—wants them to be content though poverty stares them in the face, content though prices are low and financial disasters come thick and fast. Calamity howling is an unpleasant task to any one except the chronic grumbler; but we should kick early and often against present conditions, and vote as we kick.

SOME NOBLE LEGISLATION.

On last Thursday, the second day after the legislature assembled, Senator Mewborne, President of the State Alliance, introduced a bill repealing the infamous amendments to the Alliance charter, passed by the last legislature. Senator Mewborne's bill went through like a flash, and passed third reading without opposition from the six Democrats in the Senate. On Friday the bill passed third reading in the House, each of the 43 Democrats voting with the Populists and Republicans. Two of the Democrats stated that they were in the last legislature and voted for the act passed at that time, believing it to be right to do so. Of course, if you want to destroy an organization, it is a start in the right direction to vote away its charter. We hope the gentlemen have learned that their efforts to destroy the Alliance were futile and unworthy of North Carolina citizens. The fact that only two of the ninety or a hundred members of the House who voted for the repeal two years ago were returned this time, ought to convince all that retribution was swift and terrible.

This new legislation simply places the charter back where it was before the legislature of 1892 tried to destroy it. The first bill was to repeal the charter and was rushed through the House in a few minutes without giving Alliance men a chance to defend themselves. However, the Senate called a halt and finally submitted the amended charter as an ultimatum. Leading Alliance men, who were hastily called to Raleigh, accepted the amended charter rather than meet complete disaster. In 1895 we find the President of the State Alliance and more than a hundred friendly associates repealing the amendments, and they did it in double quick time, without opposition or complaint from any source. We will add that during the two years the Business Agency fund was exposed for assault from any and all disgruntled stock holders, and during a time of great depression, less than one twelfth of the fund was withdrawn. All honor to the patriotic membership.

Gentlemen of the legislature of 1895, Alliance men and non-Alliance men, on the part of the farmers of North Carolina, we make our best bow for this, your first noble piece of legislation.

TAKE COURAGE.

We had several rainy days last week. Thursday especially was a bad day. The creeks were up and rain poured down all the morning. This prevented our brethren from meeting; so in Wake as in other counties, we had no County Alliance meeting. Now, brethren, don't let this providential hindrance dampen your enthusiasm. Your President should call a meeting at once, and you should all attend. There is much to encourage us now. The legislature has already repealed that infamous stab at our Order made by the legislature two years ago. The encouraging thing about it is, the vote in the House was unanimous, Democrats, Populists and Republicans all voting to repeal. Don't forget the shoe factory. Be sure to send in your subscriptions. We have not met a man in or out of the Order who does not approve of or declare that the Order never had a better opportunity to make itself the strongest and most real benefactor of the people of our rural districts than by establishing at once the shoe factory. Many plead poverty. Your failure, brethren, to do something along this line before has had much to do with your present poverty, and as long as you continue to send \$3.52 per capita per year of our circulating medium outside our state to pay the factories for the shoes we wear, and let our raw hides and tan bark rot, so long will we be poor and grow poorer. We have not yet reached bottom. We see it, we know it. Unless we combine and produce and manufacture out of our own materials, from our own soil, with our own labor, what we eat, wear and otherwise use, and make ourselves independent of those who ingeniously take advantage of and grow rich upon our folly, we may look for times with us to grow harder and harder. We can better our condition. It is in our power. We must do it. How can we afford not to do it? Estimate that our 30,000 Alliance members purchase shoes for 100,000 people, at factory price \$3.52 per year; this is \$352,500 a year from the State's circulating medium—58 cents profit per capita to the factory, is \$58,000 paid by our Order for labor on our shoes. Brethren, will you continue to pay that and still say you are too poor to contribute the eggs that one hen apiece for you would lay in 30 days! Don't plead poverty any more. Rise up, shake yourself and say I will be a man. I will put at least one dollar in that factory, and then act on that resolve. You can. All that you need is to resolve that you will and then put your resolution into action at once. Delay in this matter will cost you many bitter regrets in the future.

Don't delay longer. Let every reader of this make himself an active agent to stir up and create enthusiasm and raise funds. It will revive our Order. It will give us a hold upon the people. It will enable us to till 200,000 a year of our own cattle skins and tan bark that now goes to waste. It will keep more than \$300,000 a year of our circulating medium in North Carolina. It will pay that money to our own laborers. And what will it cost to start the enterprise to do this? Answer, \$10,000. How much is that? Answer, 33 cents apiece for 30,000 members, or less than 10 cents each for the number our membership have to purchase shoes for. Why, sirs, one good hen, if you will not let her sit, will lay 30 eggs in 30 days. If you are too poor to do otherwise, get that hen to work and send her product to us at the end of 30 days and we will convert it into cash and start the factory.

BI-METALLISM IN ENGLAND.

We reproduce in this issue a remarkably interesting description of St. John's College, Cambridge, England, also an interview with Professor H. S. Foxwell, the leading educator and political economist in that country.

It requires courage to be a bi-metallist in England, the very fountain head of goldbug theories and practices. Prof. Foxwell has the courage to speak out in meeting. He reads everything and is better posted on financial questions than nine tenths of the members of Parliament in his own country or the members of Congress in America. But Prof. Foxwell is not alone. In England, where the people have had more than eighty years to observe the effects of a single standard, the bi-metallists are more earnest than some of them in our own country. But for England's position as a manufacturing kingdom and a creditor country, her people would have gone under long ago. As it is, the masses are being ground to powder while the bankers and a few wealthy lords absolutely control prices and money. We will degenerate much faster under a single standard than England, and if we are saved, prompt measures alone will redeem us. Every patriotic citizen should work and vote for bi-metallism.

LABOR STATISTICS.

The annual report of Labor Commissioner B. R. Lacy for 1894 shows that there are now in operation 167 cotton and 10 woolen mills. Of these 106 cheerfully responded to the inquiries of the Commissioner, leaving 71 who failed to answer at all. The cotton and woolen factories operate 703,997 spindles and 15,059 looms. Fifty-nine per cent of the mills reported, and in these there are 6,328 women, and there are 2,340 children under 14 years; of the latter, 1,340 are boys and 1,000 girls. It is impracticable to ascertain the number of men employed in the factories heard from. The mills are in 29 counties. The number of days in which they were operated varied from 160 to 310 during the year. The average was about 260 days.

In 12 counties 11 hours was a day's work; in 11 counties, 10 hours; in 4 counties, 12 hours; in one county, 11 hours, and in 1 county, 11 hours. In 19 counties a 10-hour system is favored, while in 10 counties it is opposed. Twelve counties say it ought to be fixed by law, and that it would have a good effect.

The table showing average daily wages of operatives is very interesting. The daily wages of skilled men vary from 70 cents to \$2. The average is about \$1.25. The wages of unskilled men vary from 60 cents to \$1; average 75 cents. Those of skilled women range from 40 cents to 90 cents, averaging 60; those of unskilled women from 30 to 60 cents, averaging 45. Children get from 25 to 40 cents, averaging 30. In all, save 19 mills, all wages are paid in cash; one pays all store checks, and two pay only 5 per cent in cash. In the great majority of cases payments are made weekly. In four cases employees are not paid overtime. Wages are reported as having decreased in seven counties, and financial depression is assigned as the cause. The inquiry was made as to what age should be fixed as the least at which children should work full time. In 8 counties 15 is named as the age; in 11 counties 14 years, and in 6 counties 12 years. In most counties it is the opinion that the age should be fixed by law.

The reports as to farm statistics, labor, etc., are well arranged. The average day's work of farm hands is nine hours. Average monthly wages, \$9. Two thirds of the farmers report a decrease of wages, and a third say there is no change.

Brussels has a new executioner. He was a waiter in a saloon, and was dared by his companions into betting that he would try for the place. He won the bet and the place, which carries with it a salary of some 1,200 francs a year.

A NEW PLATFORM SUGGESTED.

Ex Judge Lyman Trumbull, of Chicago, long a prominent figure in public affairs in his State, and author of the thirteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, now a prominent Populist, submitted the following resolutions to the conference of that party, held at St. Louis recently, for a platform in 1896. However, as the old platform contains it all, in different language, perhaps, the committee didn't adopt it:

Resolved, That human brotherhood and equality of rights are cardinal principles of true Democracy.

2 That forgetting all past political differences, we unite in the common purpose to rescue the Government from the control of monopolists and concentrated wealth; to limit their powers of perpetuation by curtailing their privileges, and to secure the rights of free speech, a free press, free labor and trial by jury—all rules, regulations and judicial dicta in derogation of either of which are arbitrary, unconstitutional, and not to be tolerated by a free people.

3 We endorse the resolution adopted by the National Republican Convention of 1860, which was incorporated by President Lincoln in his inaugural address, as follows: "That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially of the rights of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depends; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force on the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes."

4 That the power given Congress by the Constitution, "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections, to repel invasions," does not warrant the Government in making use of a standing army in aiding monopolies in the oppression of their employees. When freemen unshielded the sword it should be to strike for liberty, not for despotism or to uphold privileged monopolies in the oppression of the poor.

5 That to check the rapid absorption of the wealth of the country, and its perpetuation in a few hands, we demand the enactment of laws limiting the amount of property to be acquired by devise or inheritance.

6 That we denounce the issue of interest-bearing bonds by the Government in times of peace, to be paid for in part, at least, by gold drawn from the Treasury, which results in the Government paying interest on its own money.

7 That we demand that Congress fulfill its constitutional duty, to coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin, by the enactment of laws for the free coinage of silver with that of gold, at the rate of 16 to 1.

8 That monopolies affecting the public interests should be owned and operated by the Government in the interests of the people, all employees of the same to be governed by civil service rules, and no one to be employed or displaced on account of politics.

9 That we inscribe on our banners, "Down with monopolies" and "millionaires' control. Up with the rights of man and the masses," and under this banner we may march to the polls and to victory.

AN ENTIRELY NEW CURRENCY PLAN.

The Washington Post is authority for the statement that the leaders of both parties in Congress have substantially agreed to pass a currency bill of which the following are the main features:

"Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue \$500,000,000 of bonds at an interest of 2 1/2 and not exceeding 3 per cent, running thirty years, but redeemable any time after twenty years, at the option of the Government, to be issued in small denominations of \$50 and upward and placed on sale in all the cities, so as to give it the character of a popular loan."

"Authorizing the national banks to issue circulation up to the face value of the bonds deposited in the Treasury, and reducing the tax of 1 per cent, on circulation to 1/2 of 1 per cent, or the amount necessary to pay the cost of examination."

"Requiring the withdrawal of all Treasury notes and national bank notes under twenty dollars and issuing therefor silver certificates in \$1, \$2 and \$10 denominations, to be redeemed only in silver, and thus giving a place for some \$500,000,000 or \$600,000,000 of silver circulation in notes of small amounts."

"Authorizing the mints to be opened to the coinage of silver bullion into dollars, not to exceed \$50,000,000 a year, the Government to charge the holder of the bullion seigniorage for coining it equal to the amount of the difference between the coined value and the market value of the silver, the Government thus receiving a dollar for every dollar coined."

"Requiring all national banks which increase their circulation to maintain it, and not allowing them to withdraw it without the approval of the Secre-

tary of the Treasury, thus preventing the contraction of the currency."

"Requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to withdraw from circulation the greenbacks and the Treasury notes as rapidly as the increase in the national bank notes and silver certificates is issued."

"Requiring 50 per cent of the duties on imports from all gold standard countries, and perhaps from all countries to be paid in gold."

"Reducing to \$25,000 the amount of capital necessary to establish a national bank."

Perhaps it is true that "the party leaders" have agreed upon the above schemes. But it was the leaders of the goldbug party, the money power. No honest citizen will endorse a currency scheme that calls for an issue of \$500,000,000 in bonds. No honest citizen will be satisfied with \$50,000,000 of silver annually in connection with any sort of a bond issue. No honest citizen will favor a scheme "requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to withdraw from circulation the greenbacks and Treasury notes as rapidly as the national bank notes and silver certificates are issued." The money power offers the people one dollar in relief and propose to take about four for oppression in shape of a large issue of bonds and a scheme for perpetual currency contraction. Away with such hypocrisy. It will do no good to make one dollar and destroy three or four.

A NON-RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.

Trinity Church, New York, is the richest church in the world. Years ago, when New York was a village, the church secured much real estate. Since that period many gouty Christians have willed other valuable estate to the church. Next to the Astor family Trinity controls more real estate than any corporation in the city. This property is said to be worth from \$75,000,000 to \$150,000,000, and yields an annual income of \$600,000. The church owns 148 tenement houses, the worst in the city. Old dilapidated, dirty pigsties, they are. Most of them are crowded with human beings, who pay high rent. Some of these houses contain opium joints. Investigations, like misfortunes, generally come close together. The rottenness of that city is being exposed, and Trinity Church officials and managers will get an airing. Gouty, rich, long faced Christians who worship in the magnificent church are being asked why they keep such rotten property and charge so much for it. They will have to explain how they, as a church, expect to benefit humanity by such a course. The members of that church live in splendor and keep up the style and pay the preacher a big salary by bleeding the poor. This modern Babylon, New York, must be purged, or it will be destroyed, and with it goes this entire country.

FIGURES AND FIGURES.

The New York People, a goldbug sheet, pure and simple, and, therefore, an enemy to everything humane and sensible in political economy, gets on THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER with both of its number tens: Says the People:

"Nothing in the way of high-sounding false pretenses and promises can hold a candle to the promises and pretenses held before the workmen, to coddle them out of their vote or other aid, by a class that is being ground down, but which itself grinds down the workers all it can, and that would, of all things, like to be on top of the heap—an unground grinder. This has during the last generation or two been frequently exemplified, it was exemplified by the capitalists and subsequently by the middle class in France; and it is exemplified to day by the German Populists (the Agrarians) and by our own American Agrarians, the Populists who are howling for sub treasuries and free coinage of cheap money. [But] promissful as the middle class may be to the workers, and copiously as its crocodile tears may fall over the recitation of the workers' misery, it will quite often forget the part it is acting and show the cloven hoof, or, to use a milder expression, let the cat out of the bag. The Raleigh, N. C. PROGRESSIVE FARMER, a leading organ of Populism, furnishes the latest and most graphic illustration of this interesting sociological phenomenon, together with that other middle class political trick of trying to sail under false pretenses of bigness and importance."

"This luminary refers to the figures given by an exchange, showing that Congress is now made up of:

Lawyers.....308
Bankers.....30
Farmers.....20
Professional politicians.....40
Merchants and special trades.....30
Common laborers.....0

"This is all wrong, says the FARMER; it justly argues that, upon the basis of about 15,416,000 voters in the United States and 433 members in Congress, every 35,000 voters are entitled to one member; and then it proceeds to distribute them in such way as to give the farmers 211 members, and the workingmen, whom it kindly designates as 'common laborers,' 155."

"It is the way in which the Populist paper reaches this odd conclusion that is most important. It argues that there are 8,000,000 farmers, entitling them to 211 members, and that there are only 6,000,000 workers, 'common laborers,' entitling them to 155."

"He who starts to hoodwink people must sail under false pretences; he

must talk big, and blow, and try to seem a good deal more than he is; he must try to impress people with the idea of his power. Especially when he enters politics is this trick necessary. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER does the thing to perfection when it inflates the number of farmers from the 3,500,000, which they actually number, up to 8,000,000, and when it at the same time lowers the workers, whom it is kindly willing to call common laborers, from the 10,500,000 which they number, down to only 6,000,000."

"By the census figures our population of voting age is distributed as follows:

Wage workers.....10,500,000
Middle class.....3,500,000
Capitalists.....2,000,000

"Thus we see, first, that the whole middle class—industrial and agricultural—about 2,500,000 smaller than the figures given by THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to the agriculturists alone; secondly, that the wage worker, or proletariat, the 'common laborers,' are 4,059,689 members stronger than—i.e., almost twice as strong as the whole crew of their exploiters—middle class farmers, middle class industrialists and capitalist farmers and industrialists put together!"

Without admitting that our figures were wrong, or that those given by the People are correct, we give both statements above. It is difficult to learn just how many are engaged in farming or other labor of the same nature. But we believe that our figures are nearly correct. The proportion should be that, if it isn't.

The People says we designate a position as 'common laborers.' True, but not in a reproachful way. The farmer has his name, the mechanic his. So has the laborer. When we speak of a native of France as a Frenchman we mean just that and nothing more. A certain class of laborers do any and all kinds of work. This week they may break stones on the street; next week plough on a farm. As mechanics and railroad employees, factory employees are not included, the People may revise its figures.

No attempt to prejudice the 'common laborer' against THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will ever amount to anything. In fact a large portion of our readers are horny-handed sons of toil, and they know we never ridicule their calling. Recently a labor paper said that "THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is, without doubt, the strongest farmers' paper in the country, and equally zealous in bettering the condition of the other laboring classes."

But if we are not friendly to those engaged in the crude arts, why did we plead for those 'common laborers' to get their rightful representation in Congress, 155 members, where they do not now have one? This goldbug sheet will have to hunt up some other charges, for the evidence is on the wrong side in this affair.

TOO BUSY TO BOAST.

We held a reception in our den Monday before going home for Xmas. Among the many callers we had, none had so much hand shaking as the original J. L. Ramsey, of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Bro. Ramsey could boast, if he would, of being editor of the best reform paper in the State and it is one of the best educators in the State. Bro. Ramsey is President of the R-form Press Association of this State. He informs that a meeting of the Association would be called in the near future—Charlotte People's Paper.

STATE REFORMATORIES.

Gov. Evans, of South Carolina, recently inducted into office, said in his inaugural address:

"Almost every department of the State government having been reformed there is one which has not received your attention—the State's prisoners. These unfortunate creatures are committed to our State Penitentiary for punishment and not degradation. While of course there can be no such punishment without degradation, still it is the province of government and of Christianity to rescue the fallen and if possible restore them to society. There are 206 prisoners in the Penitentiary of this class, known as 'juvenile offenders.' Boys under the age of 20 years should not be punished alongside of men of matured habits, with wicked and abandoned hearts. The result of such treatment is invariably degradation and ruin of the younger mind, and when discharged from confinement they re-enter society with diseased minds and hearts only to return to prison for the commission of more serious crimes. These young offenders should at least be isolated, furnished with different garbs and given good, wholesome instruction until our State is able to build suitable reformatories for them."

MANUFACTURING IN U. S. CENSUS, 1890.

Capital invested.....\$3,238,701,494
Plant.....630,944,088
Live assets.....3,158,865,588
Total.....\$6,928,471,500
A year's work.....\$2,283,823,265
Wages.....630,944,088
Other expenses.....5,158,865,588
Materials.....
Total cost.....\$8,072,635,674
Output.....9,370,107,634
Profit.....\$1,297,461,960
Profit on each \$100 of capital invested, \$19.94.